

SNHA offers seasonal specialities

Learn about SNHA's activities — and how you can participate — in the insert enclosed in this newspaper. One of the parks' most important partners, the Sequoia Natural History Association makes several activities possible here in the parks. Among many other programs, this non-profit organization offers two seasonal favorites: the winter Pear Lake Ski Hut and the summer tours in beautiful Crystal Cave.

Read the insert and learn more about the SNHA, or look them up at www.sequoiahistory.org.

Right: Pear Lake Ski Hut provides shelter for backcountry venturers.

Below: Graceful stone draperies decorate Crystal Cave, open in summer for tours.

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Pear Lake Ski Hut is obviously a winter destination! This chalet sits in a granite basin high above Lodgepole, at 9,200 feet elevation (2804m).

It is a strenuous six miles on skis or snowshoes to get there, but what a reward — glistening snowfields, rock walls shimmering with icicles, and a deep blue sky surround you. Weasels scamper through the snow in search of rodents that burrow beneath it.

Ten bunks and a wood-pellet stove keep visitors warm. It's a great opportunity to challenge yourself, meet other people, and experience the high Sierra in winter. (Check with the Sequoia Field Institute for seminars on winter travel).

Call 559-565-3759 for reservations.



Activities

WALKS & TALKS Free ranger-led walks or talks may be offered at Giant Forest, Wuksachi, Grant Grove, & the Foothills, usually on weekends. Check bulletin boards and visitor centers to see what is scheduled. Pages 8 & 9 have more details, or ask a ranger.

VISITOR CENTERS Each one offers different exhibits to enjoy. They also sell a wide variety of books, maps, postcards, posters, & other items. Remember: all your purchases there help to support the parks! See pages 8 & 9 for hours and locations.

TEACHERS: BRING YOUR CLASS TO THE PARKS! Rangers offer fun, curriculum-based programs for 2nd, 3rd, 4th, & 6th-grade classes in spring & fall. Topics include geology, sequoias, Native Americans, & other cultural history. Reserve a date for your class! Call 1-559-565-4303.

FIELD CLASSES & SEMINARS See the exciting list of options for you on the back of the Sequoia Natural History Association insert found in this paper.

JR. RANGER PROGRAM

People of all ages earn a patch while learning to protect resources. Those 5 to 8 years old earn the Jay Award. If you are 9 to 12 years old, work for a Raven Award. Ages 13 to 103 earn a Senior patch! Purchase a Jr. Ranger booklet in any visitor center. Follow the instructions & have fun!



WHERE CAN I...

You are visiting two different areas - a National Park (NPS) and a National Forest (USFS). Some activities may be illegal in the Park but legal in the Forest. See page 2 to learn more, and use a map to know where you are!

- **WALK A PET?** *In Parks: Not on trails but it's ok in developed areas (campgrounds, picnic areas, roads). In National Forest: Pets can go on trails. In both areas: Pets must be on a leash less than 6 feet (1.8m) long. Don't leave pets in hot cars.*
- **HAVE A FIRE?** *In Parks: Only in fire grills in campgrounds & some picnic areas. In National Forest: Fire permits are required outside picnic area grills & campgrounds. Get one at Grant Grove Visitor Center or the USFS office in Dunlap on Hwy 180.*

- **COLLECT THINGS?** *Not in Parks: Leave everything to play its natural role in the ecosystem. In National Forest: Gathering a few cones or rocks for personal use is permitted. In both areas: Archeological sites & artifacts are protected by law.*

CUT WOOD? *Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Call Hume Lake Ranger District for permit & guidelines: 559-338-2251.*

- **GO CAMPING?** *In Parks: Only in numbered sites in designated campgrounds. In National Forest: In campgrounds or, unless posted otherwise, near roadsides. Pull safely off the road & no further.*

- **FEED WILDLIFE?** *Not in either area! Animals become unnaturally dependent. Some can be dangerous and may have to be killed. Some can carry disease. Roadside beggars get hit by cars.*

- **GO FISHING?** *In both areas: Permitted during the season; a California fishing license is required for ages 16 & up. Get copies of park-specific regulations at any visitor center.*

- **RIDE SNOWMOBILES?** *Not in the Parks. In National Forest: Only on designated snowmobile routes. Snowmobile trailheads are at Big Meadows, Quail Flat, & Cherry Gap.*

- **HUNT?** *Not in the Parks. Firearms must be dismantled prior to entering national parks. In National Forest: Only until 10/23, with license. For information: 559-243-4005.*

- **DRIVE OFF-ROAD?** *Not in either area. Stay on roads.*

- **RIDE A BICYCLE?** *In Parks: Keep bikes on roads only, not on any trail. In National Forest: Ask a ranger which trails permit bicycles. In both areas: Be careful & courteous near pedestrians & horses. People under 18 must wear a helmet.*

- **GO PICNICKING?** See picnic symbols on map (back page). *Never leave food unattended!* Most sites have tables, restrooms & fire grills, except: No fire grills at Foothills & Sandy Cove. No fires permitted at Lodgepole & Crescent Meadow. No water at Grizzly Falls, Halstead, & Powdercan.

• RIDE HORSEBACK

Rides by-the-hour; backcountry spot trips & guides.
Cedar Grove - closed
 1-559-565-3464 summer
 1-559-337-2314 off season
Grant Grove - closed
 1-559-3359292
 1-559-337-2314 off season
Horse Corral - closed
 (Big Meadows in National Forest/Monument)
 1-559-565-3404 summer
 1-559-564-6429 off season
 1-559-679-3573 cell
Mineral King - closed.
 1-559-565-3106.